

October Meetings

Dates & Times:

Matinee, 2:30, Wednesday, October 12

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, October 12 and 13

Place:

May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker:

Sandra McCosker

Subject:

"Micronesia: The Tiny Islands of the Pacific"



Men of Ulithi Atoll

The subject of the October members' meetings is the timely and fascinating story of the research and collecting trip by Academy anthropologist, Sandra McCosker in preparation for the permanent exhibit on Micronesia opening Wednesday, October 12 in the Wattis Hall of Man.

Many of the small islands and coral atolls of Micronesia are poor in natural resources and vulnerable to such disasters as typhoons and drought. The people inhabiting them, however, have developed a culture rich with the skills and craftsmanship necessary to survive in such an environment. The new exhibit focuses on what may be the most spectacular cultural accomplishment of Micronesians . . . that of ocean seaman-ship, and visually transports you to a small atoll in the Central Caroline Islands.

"Micronesia: The Tiny Islands of the Pacific" is presented with vivid color slides taken by Mrs. McCosker and is narrated with the story of her travels and encounters with the people of the Marshall Islands, Ponape, Truk, Yap, Palau and Ulithi Atoll.

Sandra completed her undergraduate studies in music at Occidental College. She received her Master's Degree in Ethnomusicology from U.C.L.A. and will continue her studies this fall in the Doctoral Program in Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley.

Your membership card admits you through the main entrance at Cowell Hall or through the Wattis Hall entrance for the matinee presentation only. You will be asked to show your card once more at the auditorium door for the afternoon meeting on October 12.

Special Exhibits



Poppy and Lupin

Botanical Prints is a major exhibit of the works of Henry Evans, Printmaker, not only a well-known botanical artist, but a great friend of the Academy.

"Since plants display nature's most primaeval beauty, it cannot help but be a never-ending challenge to try to convey that beauty to others."

This he has accomplished over and over again with striking prints of iris, bamboo, chrysanthemums, wispy dry grasses and with maybe his best loved California Poppies. The exhibit is on display in Hohfeld Gallery I through December. His book, also entitled **Botanical Prints**, is on sale at the Museum Shop in Cowell Hall.

Rails of the World: Paintings by J. Fenwick Lansdowne, opens October 24, in Lovell White Hall with an exhibition of 42 watercolors painted to illustrate the book, **Rails of the World** by S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Lansdowne studies his subjects in the field, then uses museum collections of bird skins to gain the fidelity of detail and color for which he is famous. He began work on paintings of rails about twelve years ago for Mr. Ripley's monograph on these threatened marsh birds.



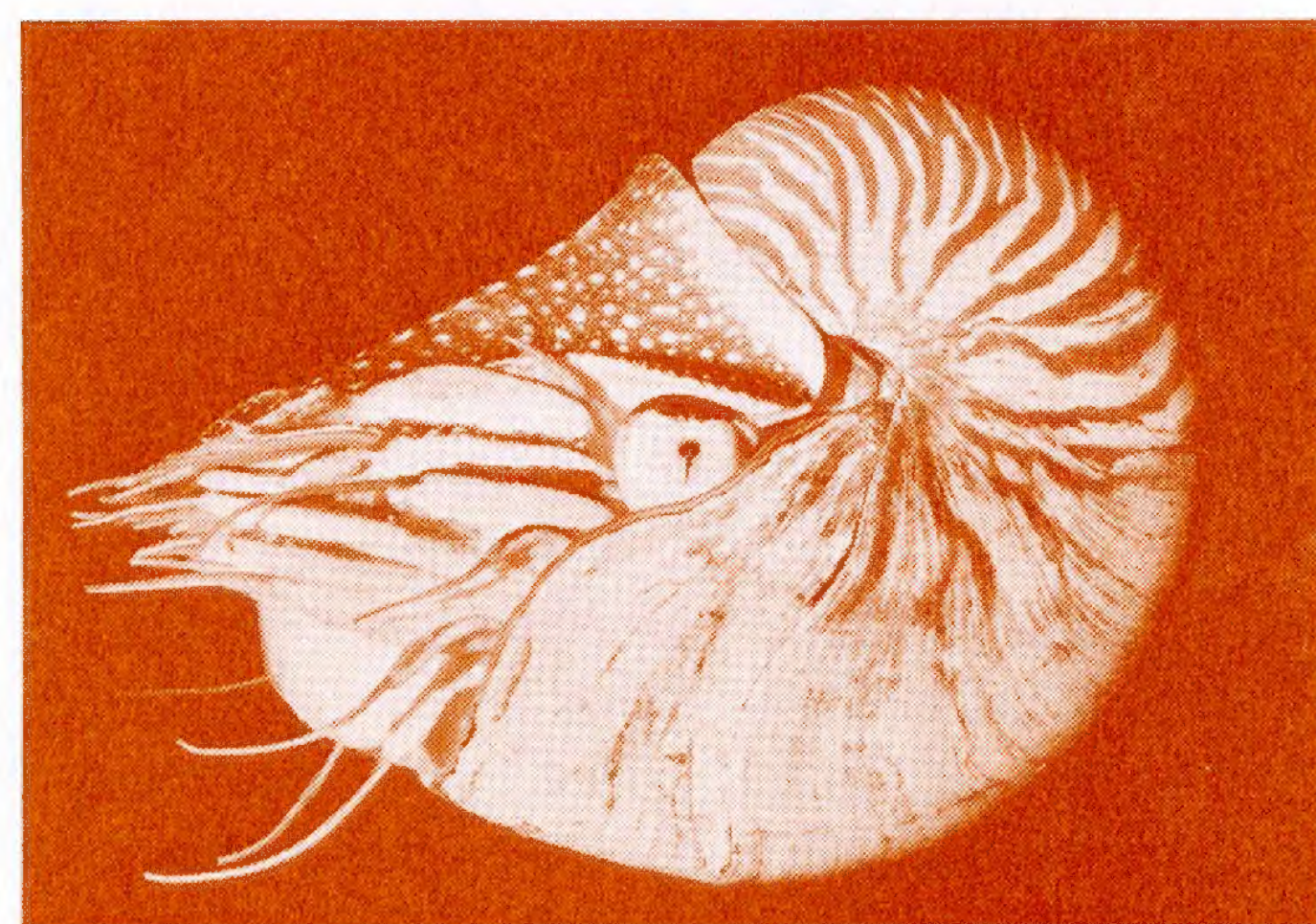
Devonian Trilobite

Fossil X-Rays is an unusual paleontological exhibit of x-ray examinations of Devonian fossils, most of which are from the famous localities of Bundenbach and Wissenbach in the Hunsrück Mountains of West Germany. Using soft x-rays, Dr. Wilhelm Stuermer, a West German physicist and paleontologist, has cast new light on the study of fossil material dating back 380 million years. His greatly refined x-ray technique produces a radiograph, as shown above, with such detail that even the soft parts of the animals can be seen. Look closely at the familiar shape of the trilobite and you can see the eyes and the intestinal tract. In the larger version on display in **Fossil X-Rays**, opening October 15, even the minute optic fibers are visible.

Dr. Stuermer's process is an important one in the study of paleontology, and the Academy is fortunate to have over 60 radiographs and informative text on display in Lower Cowell Hall Gallery through December.

It's About Time is an apt title for the grand reopening sky show of the newly renovated Morrison Planetarium. Since September 6, the great domed planetarium has been closed for a complete check of the star projector and the installation of new carpeting and some outstandingly comfortable star gazing chairs. Plan now to attend the membership preview of our shiny new interior and new show on Wednesday, October 26, at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m., or on Thursday evening at 7:30. Planetarium Director Dr. Lee Simon will be on hand to welcome you and give you a brief account of the planetarium's unique beginnings. It's a fascinating story of Academy ingenuity and community cooperation which took place just after the close of World War II.

It's About Time explores a familiar dimension which dominates our lives and yet is as mysterious as the infinite depths of space. Programs are presented Monday through Friday at 2:00 p.m. and on weekends and holidays at 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30. Evening programs can be seen on Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30. Use your membership passes and share the "new" Morrison Planetarium with a friend.



Have you seen Steinhart Aquarium's living fossils? A gift from the Waikiki Aquarium and its Director, Dr. Leighton Taylor, two specimens of Chambered Nautilus are new residents of tank number 25 and in their dimly lit environment are, pardon me, as happy as clams.

At one time the seas were filled with these relatives of squid and octopus, but for some unknown reason nearly all of

the thousands of kinds died out leaving only four known species which are found around the islands of the western Pacific. Shells of extinct Nautiloids date back nearly 500 million years.

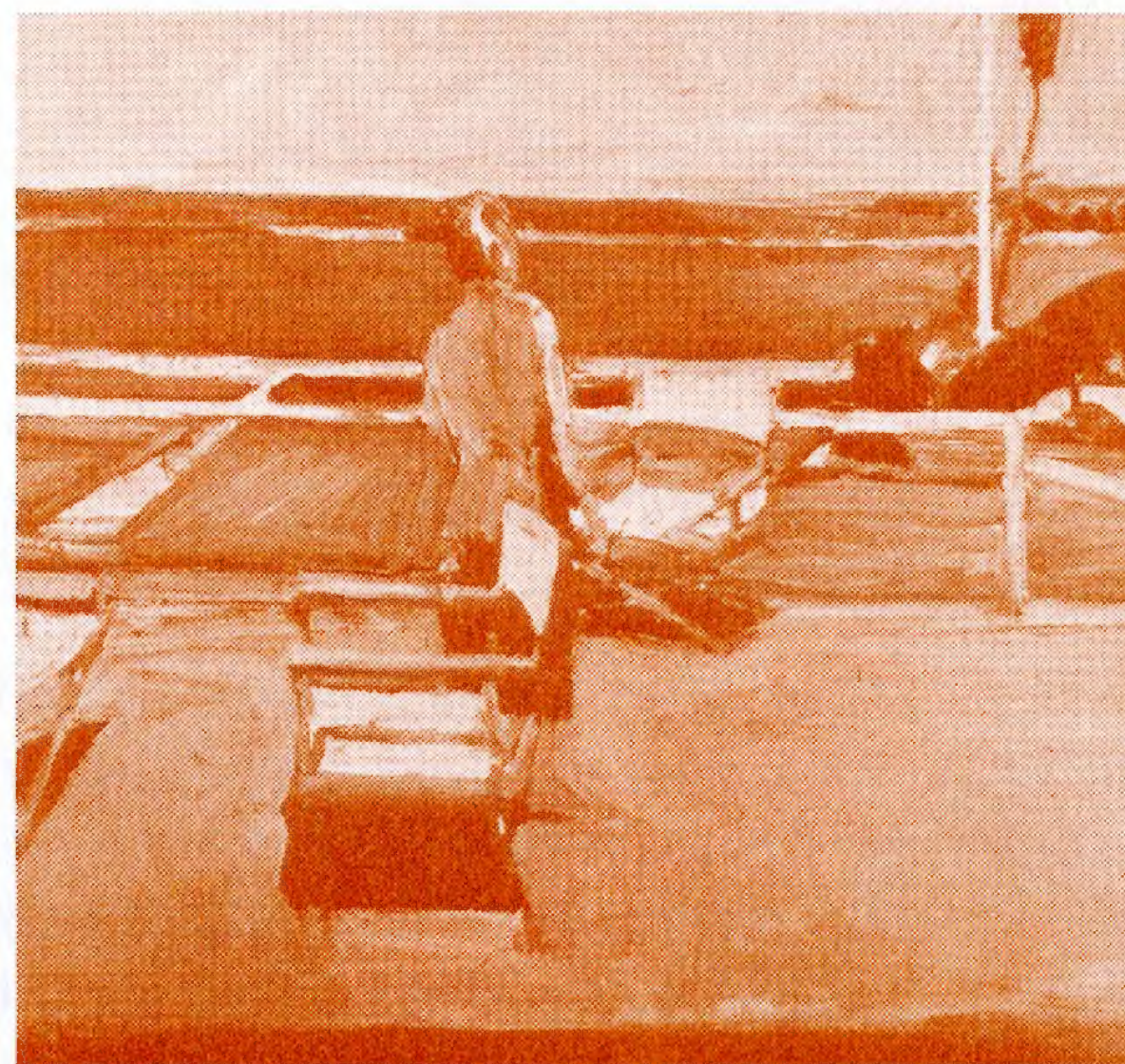


Figure on a Porch by Richard Diebenkorn

Museum Exchange This Fall

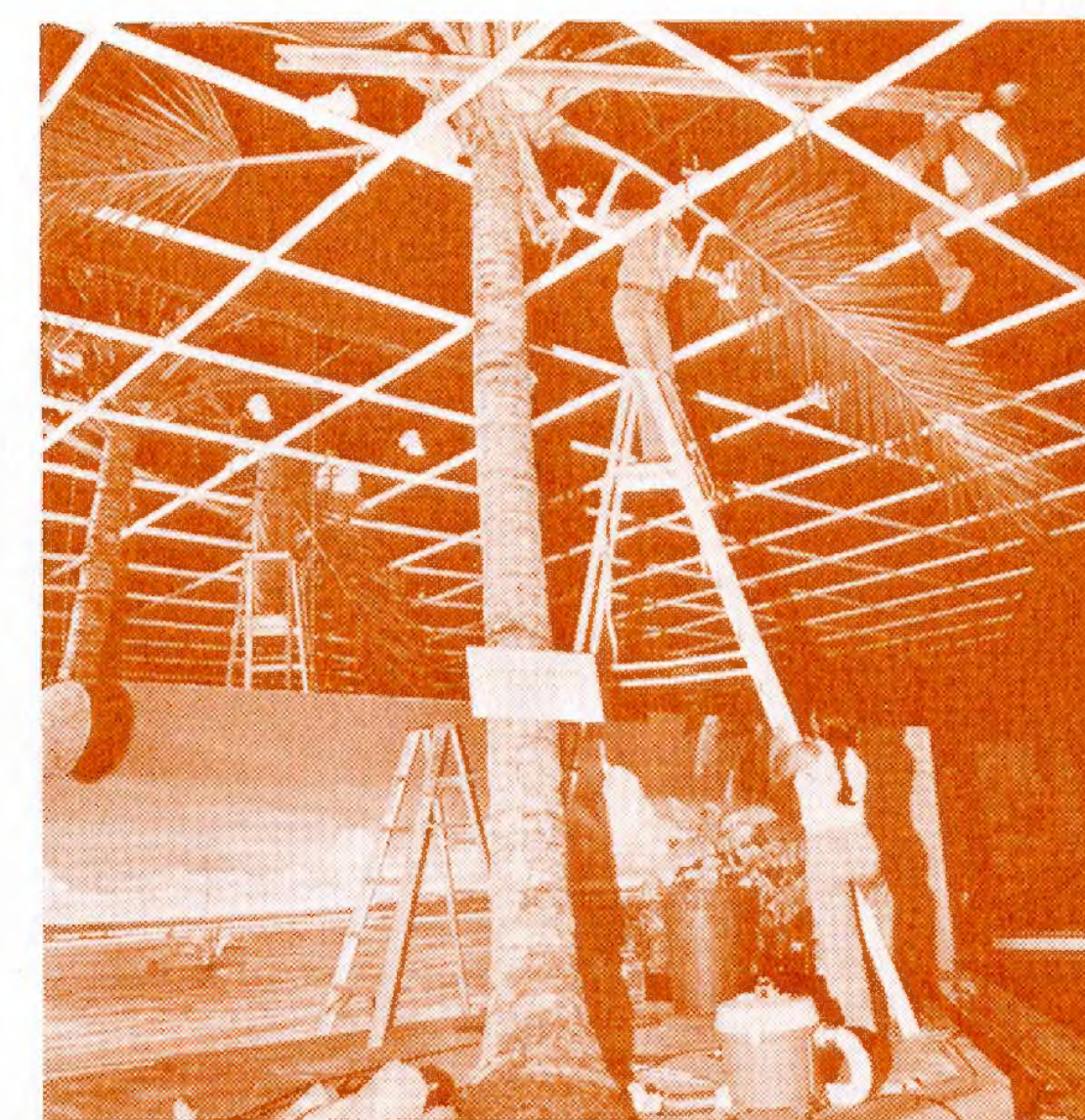
During the month of October, members of the California Academy of Sciences will be welcome honorary members at the Oakland Museum. By showing your current Academy membership card you will be allowed free admittance to the permanent galleries, a 10% discount in the Museum Stores, and reduced admission to the much touted Richard Diebenkorn Exhibition which opens in the Oakland Museum Great Hall with a preview reception on October 14 at 8:00 p.m. Members of the CAS are cordially invited to attend.

During November members of the Oakland Museum will be invited to visit the Academy free of charge where they can become acquainted with the Steinhart Aquarium, the Wattis Hall of Man, the many halls and galleries of natural sciences, and enjoy the outstanding exhibits at the CAS including the **Art of the First Australians** exhibition opening November 1.

The Oakland Museum is located at 10th and Oak Streets, Oakland, and may be reached by taking the Nimitz Freeway (#17) south from the Bay Bridge toll plaza, exiting at Jackson Street and following the signs to the museum. The Lake Merritt BART station is one block

from the museum. Parking and a restaurant are available. The Oakland Museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday and Saturday from 10 until 5; Friday from 10 until 10; Sunday from 10 until 6. The museum is closed on Monday.

For further information call the Membership Office of the Academy at 221-4214, or the Oakland Museum Association at 893-4257.

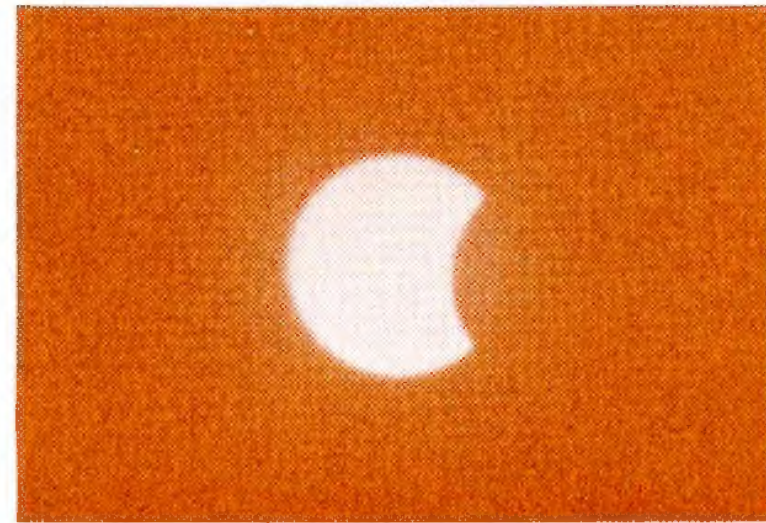


A Palm Comes to Life

The newest exhibit in the Wattis Hall of Man describes life on a small coral atoll in the Central Caroline Islands of Micronesia. A central figure in the realistic habitat scene is the coconut palm, here seen having its fronds installed by Academy taxidermist, Fred Funk, and the exhibit's designer, Dennis Carlson. A steadying hand is lent by Kathy Sherfey-Funk below. The mural in the background sets the scene for what will be happening on the beach where a fisherman cooks his catch of the day near his outrigger canoe, and a woman patiently weaves pandanus leaves into mats. Additional Micronesian material and labels are in the waistband cases surrounding the exhibit.

This exhibit was funded by the Janss Foundation and opens the afternoon of October 12. Enjoy the story of its beginnings at the members' meeting with anthropologist Sandra McCosker, then visit the result of the many months of research and planning in the Wattis Hall of Man.

Solar Eclipse Theatre and Workshop



On Wednesday, October 12, bay area residents will be able to witness a partial eclipse of the sun for the first time since 1972. At the height of the eclipse the moon's disc will cover approximately 40% of the surface of the sun. The solar spectacle begins at 11:55 a.m. and has graciously agreed to finish by 2:20 . . . in time for the members' meeting.

Members of the planetarium staff will be on hand in the courtyard with information and a safe viewing method of the eclipse using several telescopes and projection screens. Or, if you prefer the do-it-yourself approach, come to the Fountain of Whales Courtyard at 11:30 a.m. and learn how to make your own eclipse viewing box. Just bring a cardboard box, no smaller than 1 foot wide by 1 foot deep by 2 feet long, and a small piece of aluminum foil, approximately two inches square. Helpful assistance and tools will be provided by the staff, but you must supply your own cardboard box and foil.

Care of Fresh & Saltwater Aquarium Fishes:

Wednesdays, October 12-December 14, 7-9 p.m., Glenn Burghardt, Professional Aquarist — \$40 members, \$50 non-members.

An introductory course in the maintenance of home aquaria covering feeding, equipment, disease prevention, treatment and setting up the balanced tank. The class will visit Steinhart Aquarium.

Traditional Pomo Basketry:

Thursdays, October 13-December 8, 7-10 p.m., Mabel McKay, Pomo basket weaver — \$50 members, \$60 non-members.

This rare treat of a class will expose you to basket weaving as traditionally practiced by the Pomo Indians. Students will gather and prepare native materials, and will weave their own baskets.

Wildlife Photography Workshop:

October 22, 10 a.m.-October 24, mid-afternoon, held at Pippendale Ranch in Santa Rosa, Jim Morgan, Photographer — \$50 members, \$60 non-members.

This class, limited to 10, will teach the special body language and frame of mind necessary for successful work with wildlife. Mule deer, abundant at Pippendale Ranch in Sonoma County, the site of this workshop, will be the subject matter. Students will camp and cook out with food being potluck and share. Full details and a map will be sent to registered students.

Museum Taxidermy:

Wednesdays, October 26-December 14, 7-10 p.m., Fred Funk, Academy Taxidermist — \$45 members, \$55 non-members.

Covers the little-known art of taxidermy — the process of skinning, preserving and mounting vertebrate animals to give them a lifelike appearance. Also lectures and demonstrations on the collection, preparation and installation of animal and and plant specimens.

Marine Aquarium Keeping:

Saturday, November 5, 1-5 p.m., Glenn Burghardt, Professional Aquarist \$10 members, \$15 non-members.

For people experienced in fresh water aquarium keeping, this one-day seminar will go into the special problems of salt water aquariums. Do not register for both this and **Care of Fresh and Saltwater Aquarium Fishes**, as material will be repetitive.

Telescope Workshop:

Mondays, November 7-21, 7-10 p.m., star party Saturday, November 19, John Hinds, Astronomy Instructor for Diablo Valley College and City College — \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (parents and children over 12).

A short course for individuals and families interested in learning how to use telescopes, or buy one, what to look for, astrophotography and other related topics. There will be an opportunity to use what you have learned during the star party November 19.

To Register:

Pre-registration is encouraged, however, students may sign up at the front door of the Academy the first night of class, space permitting. Class fees are refundable up to the second class meeting, less a \$5 service charge. To pre-register, send a check for the full amount, along with your name, address and daytime telephone to the Education Office of the Academy. The enclosure of a self-addressed envelope is always appreciated.

Pinnacles:

Saturday, October 15, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Leaving the Academy at 8 a.m., we will travel by bus to the Pinnacles under the leadership of geologist Charles Chesterman. The Pinnacles feature good hiking trails, birds, flora, and interesting caves and rock formations. Those who wish can participate in a hike over good trails led by Mr. Chesterman. Participants will bring their own picnic lunch, but will have a cannelloni dinner in a private room at Cademartori's, San Juan Bautista's outstanding restaurant, on the return trip. The bus should return to the Academy by 9 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person, which includes transportation and dinner. Trip is limited to one bus. Members only.

Geology of the South Bay Area:

Saturday, October 29, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Join us on our traveling short course in geology of the South Bay Area. Starting from the Academy at 8:30 a.m. we will ride a chartered bus on a loop trip, observing and discussing the local geology. Because of the distance to be covered we will have minimal stops. Bring your lunch. We should be back at the Academy by 5:00 p.m. Reservations are by mail through the Travel Office of the Academy.

\$20 members, \$30 non-members.

The roadrunner on this month's **Newsletter** cover is headed for some very exciting places with the Academy's travel program. Details of trips to the west coast of Baja California, Hawaiian Islands, and to the Sea of Cortez can be found on the back cover of the current **Pacific Discovery**.

New Members of the Academy

Regular Members

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Akutagawa
Miss Rebecca Anderson
Mrs. Cass P. Apple
Mr. Michael Bailey
Miss Marjorie K. Balazs
Mrs. Carmelita Barret
Mr. Willard Beeskow
Mrs. Charlotte M. Beier
Miss Gisela Beigel
Mr. Jeffrey Belt
Mr. Philip Beyhan
Mr. William L. Blackwell
Mr. Jon Bulkley
Mrs. Chryste Burns
Mr. Patrick Burns
Mr. & Mrs. Allen C. Butt
Ms. Virginia L. Cawthon
Miss Joan S. Chaffee
Ms. Bobbi Chamberlain
Mr. James S. Clapp
Mr. Bruce Conner
Mr. William L. Cooper, Jr.
Ms. Elisabeth Danehy
Ms. Kathleen Deamer
Mrs. Tina De Cloux
Miss Rose C. Del Conte
Mr. Stephen M. Dubins
Mr. Stephen S. Dunham
Angel K. Elder
Mr. Charles W. Elder
Mrs. C. Escher
Miss Katherine K. Farley
Mr. Alan Fibish
Mr. Franklin Fong
Mr. Joseph W. Foust
Mrs. G. W. Frazer
Miss Lucy E. Garrick
Mr. Barry Glickman
Mr. Donald Goldsmith
Miss Carol Alexandra Gray
Mr. E. C. Grayson
Mr. Milton Gregory
Mr. Bernard Griesel
Mr. Richard D. Haas
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Hanns
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hartquist
Mr. Bruce S. Henderson
Mr. Stephen Holly
Mrs. Fay Hyman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Isherwood
Col. Nick Itsines
Mr. Paul H. Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Johnson, II
Mrs. Phyllis C. Jones
Karen Kai & Robert Rusky
Dr. & Mrs. Nick Kanas
Miss Lee Anna Kelly
Laurie Lahr
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Landis
Dr. Kerwin J. Lee
Mr. Edwin G. Lehto
Mrs. Paul Levin
Dr. Alan Lippincott
Mr. Morris Lipschuetz
Miss Nancy I. Lubich
Miss Dolores M. Mack
Mr. Rajendra S. Madahar
Mr. & Mrs. R. . Manbert
Mr. Dennis L. Maness
Darlene Mason
Mr. Tom Meckfessel
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Milovich

Mr. Glenn P. Moffat
Mr. Richard H. Moss
Ms. Gloria Motta
Mr. Daniel Munch
Ms. Melinda Myers
Mr. Steven J. McCormick
Ms. Ruth McCulley
Mr. Bruce McElney
Mr. John McLoughlin
Miss Mildred Nogren
Dr. G. David Novelli
Mr. N. Thad Padua
Palm Springs Desert Museum
Mr. Rodolfo R. Pambid
Miss T. June Patterson
Miss Marcy T. Pattinson
Mr. Paul J. Perotti
Steve & Judy Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Pique
Mr. & Mrs. George O. Poinar, Jr.
Dr. Travis T. Poindexter
Mrs. Jeanne L. Porter
Mr. Richard H. Pough
Mr. Michael V. Przekop
Ms. D. L. Raede
Mrs. Barbara M. Rees
Dr. Michael S. Repko
Mrs. Nancy F. Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Rollins
Mr. Mark Rosenthal
Dr. & Mrs. D. S. Rowe
Miss Tessa Rumsey
Ms. Rebekah W. Sachs
Mr. & Mrs. George J. Saucedo
Mr. James Scanlon
Ron Scherl & Greg Peterson
Mrs. W. E. Schultz
Mr. Geoffrey R. Schwerin
Mrs. Sandra Sellinger
Mrs. Katherine L. Sherry
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Silbertsein
Mr. Scott Sinclair
Miss Susan E. Smith
Mr. Vernon Neil Smith
Dr. & Mrs. Malcolm Sowers
Mr. John M. Sundahl
Ms. M. Swiencicki
Mr. Michael G. Symons
Miss Anne Theriot
Ms. Dorothy Tobkin
Mr. Ted Trexler
Ms. Claire S. Tulp
Mr. & Mrs. A. Vigil
Mr. David R. Viglierchio
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Mrs. Suzanne Ward
Miss Leann Watts
Dr. & Mrs. Paul M. Weber
Mr. William Weinman, Jr.
Mr. Travis R. Williams
Miss Jane Werthimer
Mr. Peter Yeomans
Mr. David P. Zensius
Miss Lil Zidell

Contributing Members

Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Elkus
Mr. Robert P. Feyer
Mr. & Mrs. Jitsuo Higashi
Miss Lucy M. Hong
Dr. Clara Johns
Mr. George Selland
Mr. Julian J. Tofil
Mrs. F. Robert Preece

Advance Notice of Monthly Meetings:

November 9 and 10 — Carl Roessler on
Around the World Under the Sea

Open every day of the year
No. 454



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